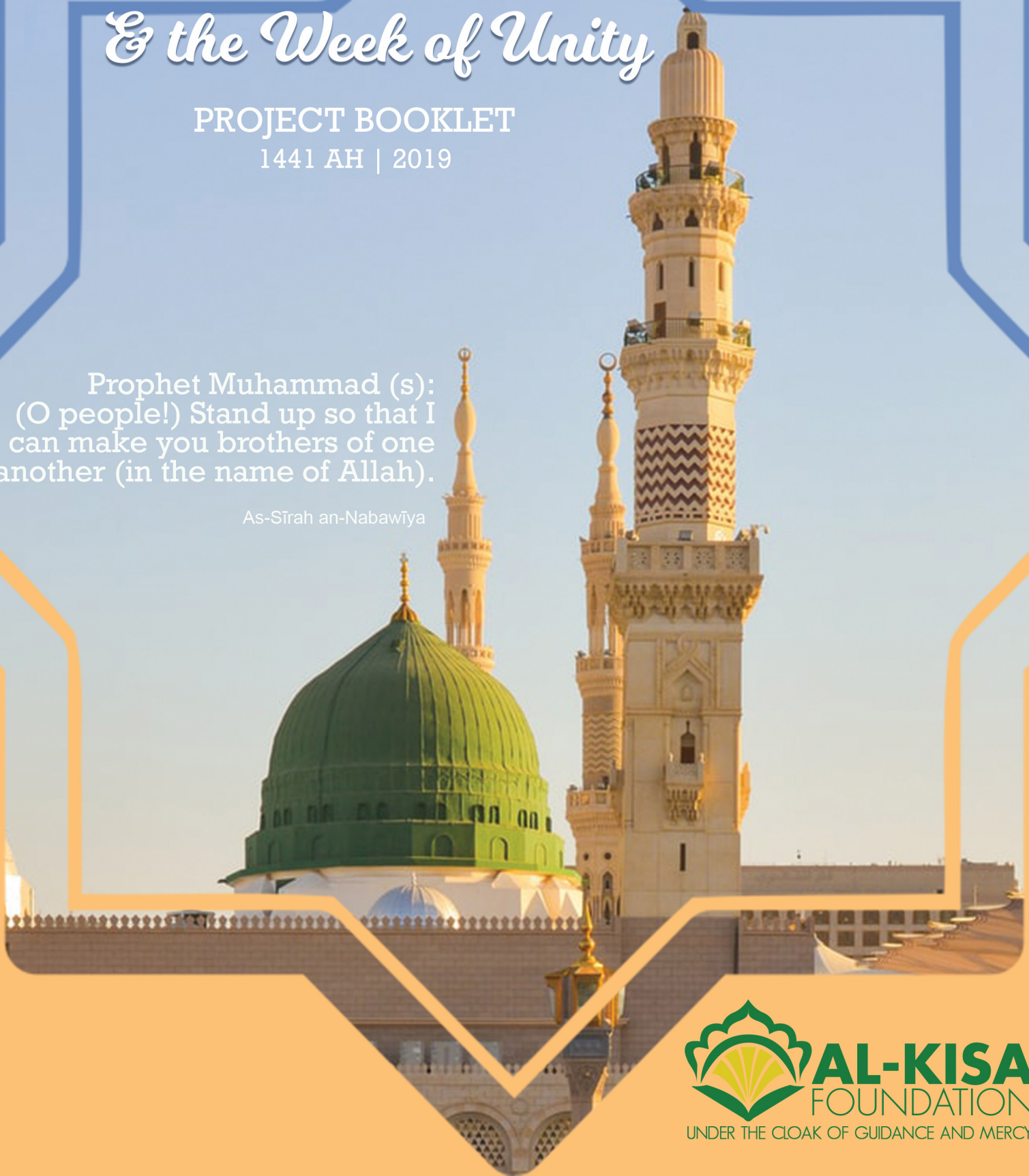
Milaad un Nabi
& the Week of Unity

PROJECT BOOKLET

1441 AH | 2019

Prophet Muhammad (s):
(O people!) Stand up so that I can make you brothers of one another (in the name of Allah).

As-Sīrah an-Nabawīya



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INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

http://www.hajij.com/en/articles/religious-articles-viewpoints/item/1522-the-importance-of-unity-in-islam

www.al-islam.org

as-Sīrah an-Nabawīya vol. 1, pg 123-124

Tales of the Last Messenger by Kisa Kids Publications

https://www.imamreza.net/old/eng/imamreza.php?id=1012

Wasā'il al-Shi'ah

www.dictionary.com

https://www.firstpalette.com/craft/crown-of-friends.html

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Salāmun ʿAlaykum,

May Allah bless us, our families, and our communities. My tabrīkāt, taḥiyyāt, best wishes and congratulations to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (aj), our great Marājiʿ and scholars, and to the Muslim Ummah on the wilādah of the best human being created on earth, the hope and mercy of the worlds, the perfect example and role model for mankind, our Noble Prophet of Islām, Prophet Muhammad (ṣ), and on the wilādah of our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa).

During the time of Imām Khomeini, people came and asked him regarding the two narrations of the Prophet's (ṣ) birthday. Should they celebrate on the 12th or 17th of Rabī ul-Awwal? Imām Khomeini looked puzzled. He answered, "Should we celebrate just one day for this great man? We are celebrating the birth of the best creation of Allah! We should have a whole week of celebrations!" This week is the week of unity and waḥdah, and is celebrated as such all around the world.

However, there is a key point regarding our unity. Our unity cannot be a naive type of unity — it cannot just be a slogan for us to chant a couple of times a year. We need to be smart and even calculating in our unity. We need to be strategic.

When the Prophet (ṣ) came to tell the people about Islām, he did not choose any political strategies, rather his campaign and slogan was "Qūlū Lā ilāha illAllāh tuflihū" - "Say, 'there is no god except Allah, and you will be successful.'" With the strength and belief in *Lā ilāha illAllāh*, and with the weapon and instrument of akhlaq, he truly gave life to a people who were living, but dead inside.

The main question is how to be unified. I want to mention two main points that are keys to successful unity:

1. Accommodation: We cannot hold the banner of unity and ignore our differences. We cannot pretend we are the same when we are not. But we need to be accommodating when it comes to these realities. In areas of fiqh that require experts, each person follows their own madhab and fiqh rulings. We can respect and be welcoming to the way others pray, and they can behave the same toward us when we pray. In accommodation, everyone still stands strong with their beliefs and principles. Accommodation is not conversion. Unity here is empathy, understanding one another, respecting each other's differences, agreeing to disagree in a respectful manner for everyone to see, to understand, and appreciate. Unity here is accommodation. Even in history, we see accommodation: Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) used to answer the questions of people of other faiths, such as Christians and Jews, with their own books!

2. Focusing on common challenges: Today we are known as Muslims. When the news propagates against Islām, they are not focusing on if the Muslims are Shīʿah or Sunnī; they are simply using the term "Muslim." When our children are bullied at school, in the workplace, at the store, or anywhere else, no one is asking if they are Shīʿah or Sunnī; they are just Muslim to them. We have an ample amount of challenges that we share in the society in which we live. We have to prioritize. Some of our common challenges include keeping our children on the right path, media, bullying, modesty, drugs, depression, and family issues such as divorce.

Indeed, the root cause to all of the disasters in the Muslim Ummah is that we have moved away from the akhlaq that is rooted in *Lā ilāha illallāh* and the fruits of this akhlaq that bring freedom, human rights, equality, and unity. Today, we are split by color, culture, race, language, madhab (sects), and are fighting regarding things that go against the Prophet's (ṣ) great akhlaq. He taught us that in Islām, there is no Arab and Ajam, there is no black and white, there is no male and female, there are no tribes; there is only taqwā (God-consciousness), and taqwā is not something we judge or measure — only Allāh can.

So, what can we do today? We need to have a good channel of communication between the Muslims

and masājid, between the leadership and the scholars. If we engage in good dialogue amongst ourselves to have a united front in our common ground and not highlight our differences, we can be successful. Indeed, we all agree that there are differences and this is a part of history we have to acknowledge. We should not expect others to pray like we do, and they should not expect us pray like they do. But prayer is a common ground! We must stand together and work together to show the truth.

Lastly, we are the ambassadors of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Islām. We have to invite people with our akhlaq and the fruits that come with tawḥīd and Qūlū Lā ilāha illallāh tuflihū.

In honor of the wilādah of our Noble Prophet (ṣ) in 2019/1441, we are pleased to launch the first annual Week of Unity Project Booklet. This booklet includes four lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects will assist in planting the love of our Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in our children and serving the oppressed of the world through prayer and good deeds. By following the right role models and serving Allāh's creatures all around the earth, inshāʾAllāh we become closer to Him.

Our humble request is to create a two-way connection by all of us sharing our expertise and experiences and avoiding duplicated work, in order to maximize our potential. Please share your ideas, experiences, and successes with us, so that together, we can all move forward and build a global network. You may send any questions, suggestions, or feedback at info@kisakids.org, and inshāʾAllāh together we can build the foundation for Islāmic education.

We pray that Allāh gives us the tawfīq to actualize our duties and responsibilities.

JazākAllāh and Best Wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

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Introduction to Unity

OBJECTIVE:

Children will be introduced to the Week of Unity, what it means, and why it is important to have in our Muslim communities.

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

TIME: 40 Minutes

MATERIALS:

- Bracelet template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- String/yarn
- Scissors
- Single hole puncher
- *Optional:* beads

PROCEDURE:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun Alaykum! We are now in the Islamic month of Rabi ul-Awwal. There are two special people whose birthdays we celebrate this month. Does anyone know whose wilaadaat are in this blessed month? (Wait for answers.)

2. **SAY:** Very good, mashaAllah! We are celebrating the wiladah of our Noble Prophet, Prophet Muhammad (s), and our sixth Imam, Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a), who share the same birthday. Now, there are two different traditions of the Prophet's (s) wiladah: the 12th of Rabi ul-Awwal and the 17th. The days in between have come to be known as the Week of Unity. Does anyone know what "unity" means? (Wait for answers.)

3. **SAY:** Good guesses. Unity means "something whole or complete that is made up of separate parts" that have come together in agreement. Look at the example of the Muslim Ummah. We all have our differences, but we respect each other despite those differences. We use our differences not to create distance, but to unite us with the one common thing we share: our Noble Prophet (s) and his teachings. What are some ways we can stay united? (Wait for answers.)

4. **SAY:** MashaAllah! As we have already mentioned, we should respect each other, no matter what differences we may have. We can talk to other people in a nice way. We can be kind to others when they need help. These are just some ways we can have good akhlaq and stay united with our fellow Musims. Allah says in the Holy Quran, "And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allah, and do not be divided among yourselves."[1] This shows that one of the best ways to stay united is by following the teachings of the Quran, as taught to us by Prophet Muhammad (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt (a). Today, we are going to test ourselves to see if we know ways to have unity.

5. At this time, pass out the bracelet template to the children. First, they will need to look at all of the images and find out which ones are good ways of promoting unity (there should be 5). They should cross out any that are not good and color the ones that are good.

6. Next, help the children cut out the pieces they have colored.

7. After they have cut out all of the circles, help them carefully punch a hole where the black dot is on each circle (you can use a pencil if you don't have a single hole puncher).

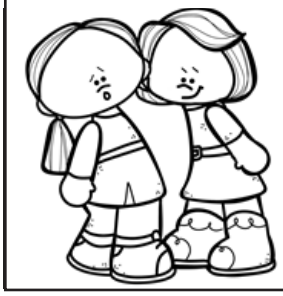
8. Now, give each child a piece of string or yarn and have them carefully slide the string through each piece. You can tie it shut once all of the pieces are on.

9. *Optional:* Slide some beads through the string in between the paper circle beads. You can make any pattern you like.

1 Sūrat Āl-'Imrān, Verse 103

Be Kind

Teasing



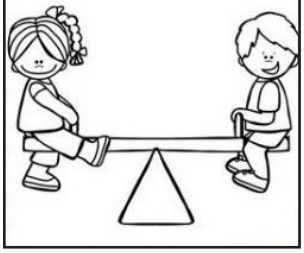
Play With Everyone

Hit/Fight

Help Others

Say Bad Words

Play Fairly



Pushing

Share

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The Story of Brotherhood

OBJECTIVE:

Children will learn about the meaning of brotherhood in Islam.

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

TIME: 45 Minutes

MATERIALS:

- Crown template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

PROCEDURE:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun Alaykum! Earlier, we talked about Prophet Muhammad's (s) wilaadah and the meaning of unity. There was one event where the Noble Prophet (s) used this idea of unity to bring together different groups of people. Does anyone know the story of Hijrah? (Wait for answers)

2. **SAY:** Very good, mashaAllah! The event of Hijrah is when the Prophet (s) and his followers migrated to the city of Medina from Mecca. The people of Medina, who were later called the Ansaar, or helpers, were very welcoming and invited the Muhajereen, those who left Makkah, to live in their city. One day, the Prophet (s) stood up in the masjid, turned towards the Muslims and said, "(O people!) Stand up so that I can make you brothers of one another (in the name of Allah)." So, all of the Muslims stood up and greeted each other as brothers, for whom they had a great deal of love and affection for, with the Prophet (s) choosing Imam Ali (a) as his own brother.[1] Why do you think the Prophet (s) wanted everyone to do this? (Wait for answers)

3. **SAY:** Great answers! Yes, the Noble Prophet (s) wanted to show everyone how important it is to treat each other with kindness and respect. He showed this in a way that everyone could practice and experience it for themselves. Let us do the same! Turn to the person next to you and greet them. (While sitting, have the children turn to their neighbor and say "Salaam" and if they want, give each other a hug, high five, or handshake.)

4. **SAY:** Wonderful! Today, we are going to be making a crown of friends[2], to remind ourselves about the value of brotherhood.

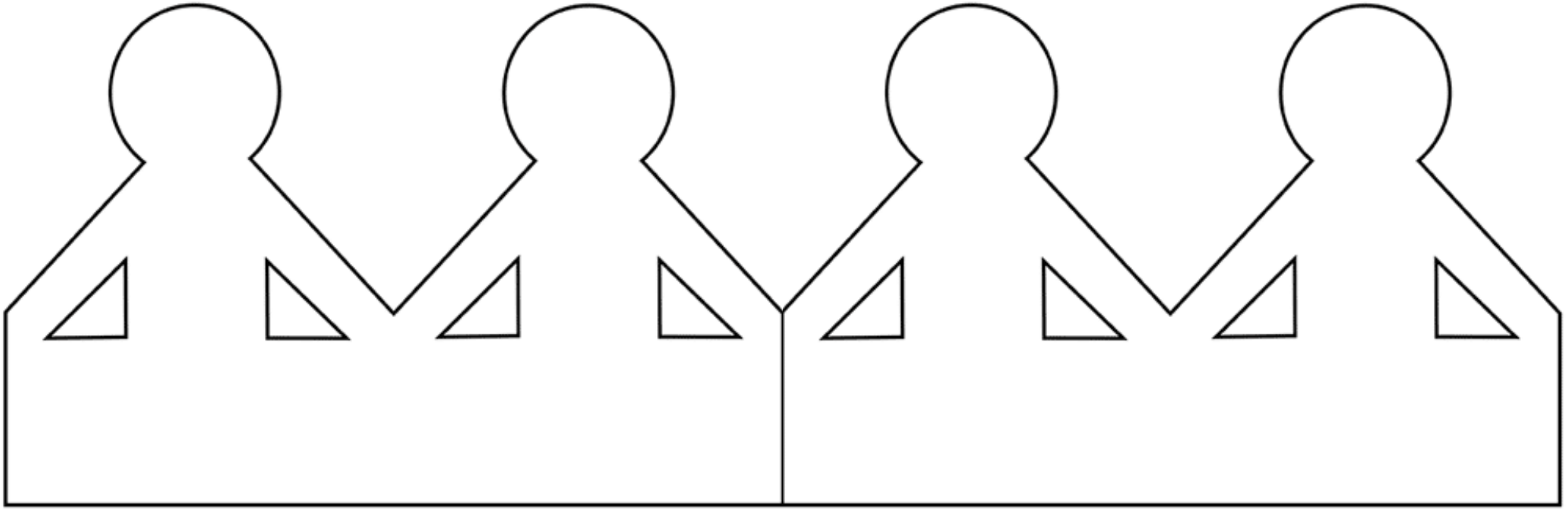
5. At this time, hand the crown templates to the children. Have them draw and decorate images of different people.

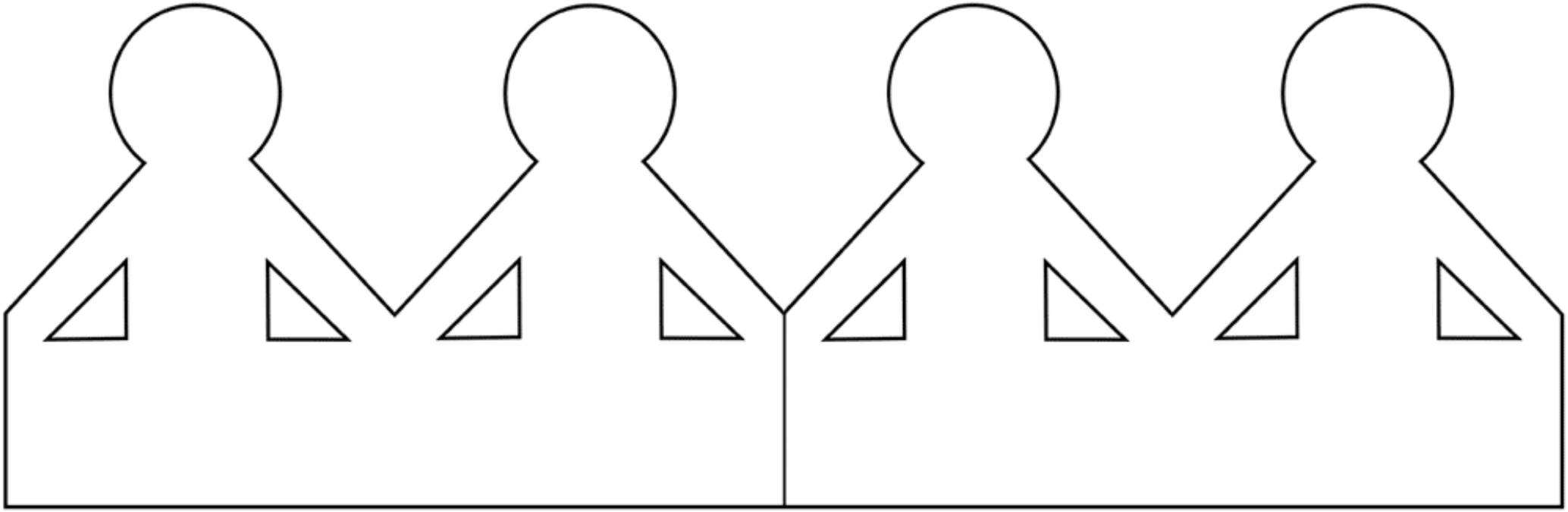
6. Then, the children should carefully cut all along the outer edges of the crown. They should have a long strip of paper with people standing and holding hands.

7. Now, have the children carefully fold the two edges together and glue or tape. This should make a circle, which is the "crown" shape.

8. Once the edges are securely glued or taped, the children can wear them on their heads.

1 As-Sīrah an-Nabawīya vol. 1, pg 123-124
2 "Crown of Friends" from First Palette





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Pomegranate Seeds

OBJECTIVE:

Children will learn about having good manners toward others who are different from us through a story of the Prophet (s).

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

TIME: 40 Minutes

MATERIALS:

- Pomegranate template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue

HAVING GOODPROCEDURE:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun Alaykum! Earlier we talked about Prophet Muhammad's (s) wilaadah and the meaning of unity. There was one event where the Noble Prophet (s) used this idea of unity to bring together different groups of people. Does anyone know who Salman al-Farsi was? (Wait for answers.)

2. **SAY:** Great answers! Salman al-Farsi, or Salman al-Muhammadi, was a close companion of the Ahl al-Bayt (a). One day, Salman went to visit the Noble Prophet (s) and received the same warm welcome he always did. When some of the other guests noticed this, they were jealous of the special attention Salman received from the Prophet (s). They were angry to see the Prophet (s) give so much love and respect to a poor man! These guests felt that only men like themselves, who were rich and popular, deserved that kind of respect. One of the men loudly complained, "Who is this Persian man who has gained so much respect and honor among us? Why does the Prophet (s) show him so much respect and love? We are so much better than him!" The Prophet (s) heard this and was very upset by their words. He did not want any of his followers to think or behave so arrogantly! To solve the issue, the Prophet (s) stood up to give them the lesson they needed. He told them, "O my brothers! All human beings who have existed from the time of Prophet Adam (a) until now are equal, just as each seed in a pomegranate is equal. Each seed is similar in size, and tastes as sweet as the one that rests next to it! How can anyone think he is better than the person next to him?"[1] What does the Prophet (s) say about how we should treat people who are different from us?

3. **SAY:** Exactly, mashaAllah! We should treat everyone with respect and kindness. It doesn't matter if they don't look like us, if they are poor or rich, if they are from a different country, or if they speak a different language. The Prophet (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt (a) had the best akhlaq, and we should follow their example on how to treat others. Today, we are going to make a pomegranate and we are going to see who all should be included in our pomegranate.

4. At this time, hand out the pomegranate template to the children. Have them color and decorate the images however they like.

5. Next, they should carefully cut out the images of the pomegranate. They should then cut along the dotted line that runs in the middle but only halfway of pomegranate. This should create 2 slits on each piece, one from the top and one from the bottom.

6. Then, they should attach the two pieces of the pomegranate by sliding pomegranate side 2 (slit on the bottom) through pomegranate side 1 (slit on the top).

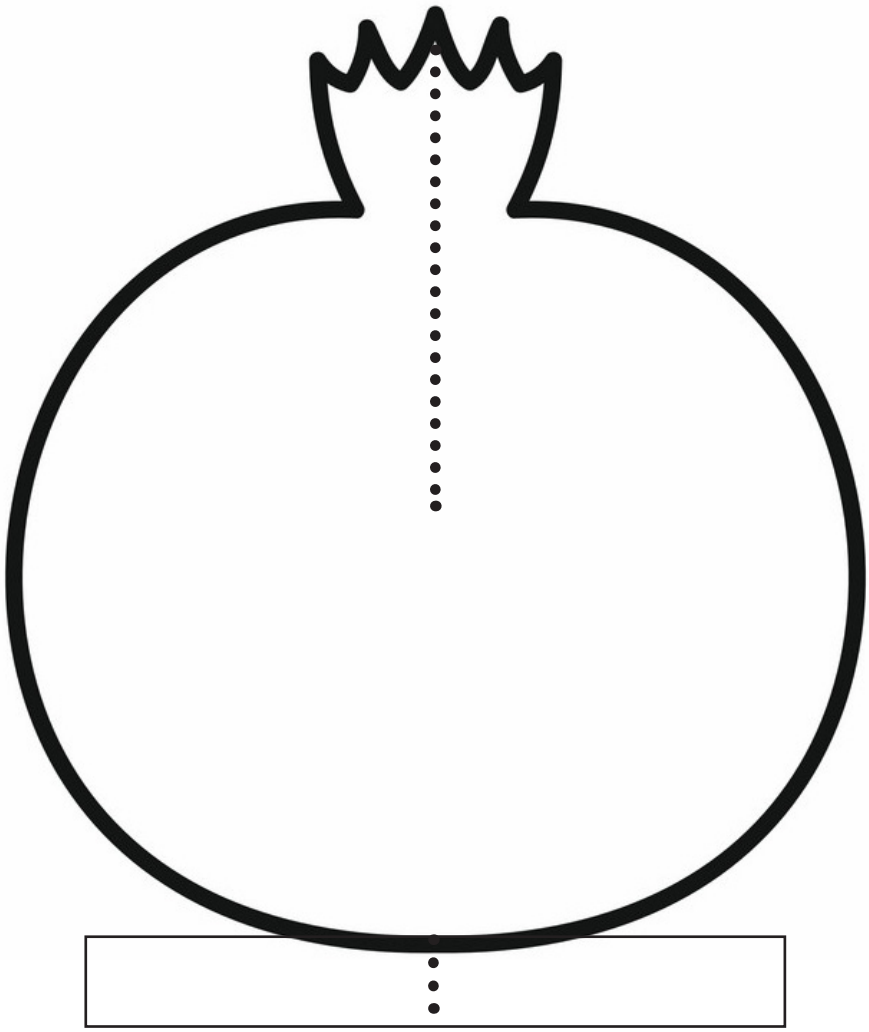
7. Next, help the children carefully cut the tab on the bottom of pomegranate 1 in half and fold each side to be perpendicular to the pomegranate. This will help the pomegranate to stand.

8. Now, ask the children to only cut out the images of the people who are all the same like seeds in a pomegranate (hint: it's all of them).

9. Once the children have determined that all of the images are the same like seeds in a pomegranate, they will glue them onto the 4 sides of their pomegranate.

1 *Tales of the Last Messenger* by Kisa Kids Publications

1



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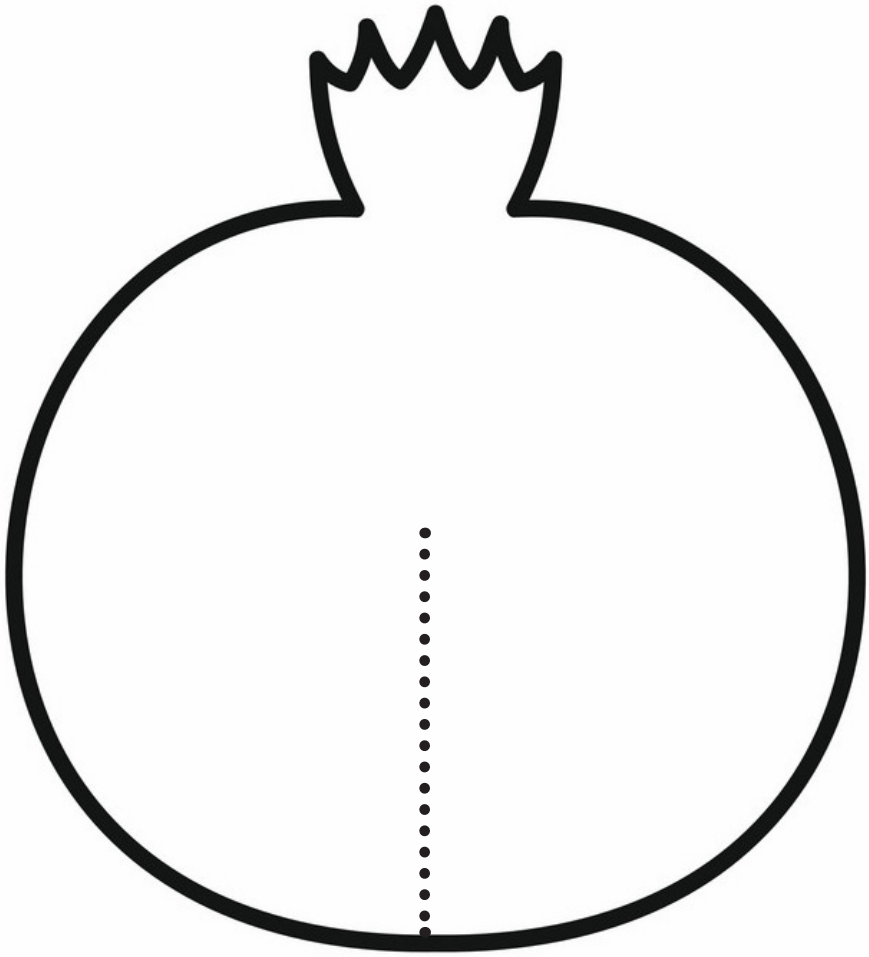

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How to Talk to Others

OBJECTIVE:

Children will learn about how to talk to others and what to say to those who are being mean.

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

TIME: 35 Minutes

MATERIALS:

- Squares template
- Crayons/colored pencils

PROCEDURE:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun Alaiyum! As we have mentioned before, we are celebrating the wilaadaat of two special people this month. One is Prophet Muhammad (s). Can anyone remember who shares a birthday with our Noble Prophet (s)? (Wait for answers.)

2. **SAY:** MashaAllah! We are also celebrating the wilaadah of Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a). Who can tell me which number Imam he is? (Wait for answers.)

3. **SAY:** Very good, he is our sixth Imam! Imam as-Sadiq (a) has taught us many things, including the importance of having good akhlaq toward others. In one hadith, he has said, "There are three deeds that are very good deeds in this world and the hereafter: to forgive the one who has wronged you; to maintain a close relationship with someone who broke with you; and to be gentle to someone who behaved foolishly towards you."[1] This shows us that no matter how others may treat us, we should still keep our good akhlaq and continue to treat them with kindness. Today, we are going to do an activity to learn about what nice things we can say to others.

4. At this time, hand out the squares template to all of the children.

5. Have the children color all of the squares that have kind and nice things to say, and leave the ones that say mean and hurtful things blank.

6. They should begin where it says "START" and make a path to Jannah, where it says "FINISH"

1 Wasā'il al-Shī□ah

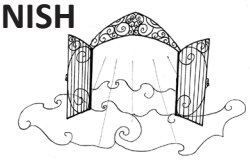
DIRECTIONS:

Color the squares that have nice and kind things to say, and make a path toward Jannah!

START

I don't want to talk to you!	No one cares	Go away!	How are you today?
You're not my friend anymore!	Weirdo!	Are you ok?	That is a good idea!
I'm sorry you feel that way	That is not a nice thing to say	Do you need any help?	You're such a baby!
Thank you!	You're so mean!	It's none of your business!	I hate you!

FINISH



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